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1. ~~Dr N.R. Beattie~~
2. ~~P.R.O. Region~~
~~London~~
3. ~~Miss Buchanan~~
4. ~~Miss K. Agnew~~
5. ~~Miss W. Whitman~~

HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

James C. Sleight
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

and

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

John Snowdon
M.A.P.H.I.

FOR THE YEAR 1959.

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FOR THE YEAR 1959.

HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
1959

Chairman: Mr. C.F. Putterill, J.P., C.A.

Vice-Chairman: Mrs.C. West.

Mr. E.	Ackroyd	Mr. L.T.	Fowler
Mr. K.H.	Bond	Mr. F.N.	Gingell, M.B.E., J.P., C.C.
Mr. A.	Clark	Mr. N.J.	Hill
Mrs. K.F.M.	Crawley	Mr. H.A.F.	Malden
Mr. C.W.	Curl	Mr. V.E.	Truss
Mrs. E.D.	Eastwood	Mr. H.C.	Williamson, J.P.
Mr. L.W.	Edgell		

Public Health Committee

Chairman: Mr. L.T. Fowler

Mr. K.H.	Bond	Mrs.E.D.	Eastwood
Mr. A.	Clark	Mr. F.N.	Gingell, M.B.E., J.P., C.C.
Mrs. K.F.M.	Crawley	Mr. N.J.	Hill
Mr. C.W.	Curl	Mr. H.C.	Williamson, J.P.

URBAN DISTRICT OF HARPENDEN.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the
Harpenden Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of
Harpenden for the year 1959.

The general health of the district remained good, but
we had the usual epidemic of measles which, generally speaking, occurs
every two years.

Only two cases of poliomyelitis arose, one in an adult of
28. This was a very serious case but he did survive. The other
case was more interesting. A boy of 10 had had poliomyelitis
vaccination but developed a paralytic form of the disease only to a
very, very slight extent, and all the paralysis cleared up within a
few days. I think it is not unfair to claim that, but for his
inoculation, he would probably have had a considerably more severe
attack.

I am also deeply indebted to the Chief Clerk and
Secretary in the Divisional Health Office for their assistance
in the preparation of the statistics for this report and for the
many extra duties carried out by them during the year, which were
actually outside their Divisional Health Office duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J.C. SLEIGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

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SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	..	...	..	..	3,157
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	..				17,100
Number of inhabited houses on the Rate Books:					
Inhabited dwelling-houses (including flats and huts but excluding caravans)	..		..		5,687
Shops with living accommodation	..		..		66
Licensed premises with living accommodation.				..	23
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	£309,844
Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated)	..			..	£1,250

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births - Legitimate	..	169	161	330
Illegitimate	..	4	4	8
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	..	..	..	19.77
Still Births	..	1	3	4
Still Birth Rate (i.e. per 1,000 total live and still births)	..	..	..	11.70
Still Birth Rate (i.e. per 1 000 of estimated population)	..	..	..	0.23
Deaths	..	65	94	159
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	..	..	..	9.30

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		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, or Abortion:		-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 (total live and stillbirths)		..	..	-
Deaths of Infants under 1 Year:				
Legitimate	..	2	4	6
Illegitimate	..	-	-	-
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age (all infants per 1,000 live births):	..	..	..	17.75
Neonatal Death Rate:	..	..	..	14.79

BIRTHS: The number of births during
1959 was 338.

DEATHS: There were 159 deaths.

The Infant Mortality rate is down this year but this rate is bound to fluctuate markedly when dealing with small numbers. Still births, at 4, remained the same as last year.

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CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Cause.</u>		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other ..	-	-
3.	Syphilitic Diseases ..	-	-
4.	Diphtheria ..	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough ..	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections ..	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis ..	-	-
8.	Measles ..	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	-	-
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach ..	1	4)
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	4	-)
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast ..	-	6)
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus ..	-	-)
14.	Other lymphatic and malignant Neoplasms ..	8	3)
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ..	1	-)
16.	Diabetes ..	-	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	14	24
18.	Coronary disease, angina ..	7	8)
19.	Hypertension ..	1	5)
20.	Other heart disease ..	13	15)
21.	Other circulatory diseases ..	3	3
22.	Influenza ..	1	3
23.	Pneumonia ..	-	4
24.	Bronchitis ..	3	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	-	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis ..	-	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate ..	-	-
C/fwd ..		58	83

27 Cancer.

49 Heart Disease.

	<u>Cause</u>		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
		B/fwd	.. 58	83
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	..	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill- defined diseases	..	2	7
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	1	-
34.	All other accidents	..	2	2
35.	Suicide	..	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	-	-
			—	—
	<u>Totals</u>	..	65	94
			--	--

Cancer Death Rate (per 1,000 of estimated population) - 1.52

Heart Disease

Death Rate (per 1,000 of estimated population) - 2.87

It can safely be said that the majority of cases under the heading "Heart Disease" could be more accurately described as death from old age.

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SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Welfare Centres and Clinics.

The County Council Child Welfare Clinics are now held at No. 40 Luton Road on the first and third Wednesday afternoons of each month and at Batford J.M.I. School on the second and fourth Wednesday afternoons at which the Doctor is in attendance. An Infant Welfare Clinic is also held at the Methodist Church Hall, Southdown Road, on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month.

The Ophthalmic, Dental and Speech Therapy clinics are at 40 Luton Road by appointment.

This arrangement is working very well. At Batford we are deeply indebted to the Headmaster, Mr. G. Rees, for his enthusiastic co-operation.

National Health Service Act.

The Divisional Administration of the health services administered by the Local Health Authority, the County Council, continues to work very smoothly and an increasing amount of detailed administration is being passed out to Divisional Health Offices from Hertford.

The records available in the Divisional Health Office on Local Health Authority work are of the greatest value to me in my local Sanitary Authority (Medical Officer of Health) work, especially in what is my most difficult job, assessing medical points for housing applications.

Ambulance Service.

I am omitting figures for the ambulance service as applied to Harpenden. The service is running at full strength and whether a case is served from Harpenden or St. Albans depends on circumstances such as urgency, availability of ambulances or sitting cars.

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Hospitals.

The Harpenden Memorial Hospital forms part of the Luton and Hitchin Group administered by the Management Committee under the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. Four House Committees have been appointed by the Management Committee, one of which is concerned with this Hospital and for this purpose the Hospital is linked with Welwyn and Stevenage.

It should be noted that Harpenden Memorial Hospital is not equipped or staffed for dealing with casualties and I feel I cannot recommend that it be so staffed or equipped. The days when casualties were dealt with by a junior resident Medical Officer are gone. Even what appear to be simple casualties quite frequently turn out to be much more complicated and require full investigation including X-ray, blood grouping etc. To provide this and of course the necessary resident staff would be quite uneconomical. Both the staff and the facilities would be unemployed for probably something like 90% of their time and with the modern quick transport by ambulance to either Luton and Dunstable or St. Albans Hospitals it could not possibly be justified.

Statistics.

Year ended December 1959.

<u>Bed complement:</u>	Surgical and Medical	..	22
	Maternity	..	<u>12</u> 34
<u>Average daily number of occupied beds:</u>		..	20.89
<u>Admissions:</u>	..	..	735
<u>Discharges:</u>	..	..	744
<u>Number of Births:</u>	Live	..	316
	Still	..	4
	Deaths	..	1

<u>Physiotherapy Dept:</u>	<u>New Patients.</u>	<u>Attendances.</u>
In -patients	40	348
Out-patients	646	7,746
<u>Casualty Dept:</u>	767	916
<u>Specialist Consultations:</u>	859	1,152
<u>Out-patients treated by</u>		
<u>General Practitioners:</u>	121	167

General Nutrition.

Poor nutrition is rare and usually is the result of fussing parents indulging food fads. Underweight children often are of small birth weight or have small parents.

I must emphasise that there is no fixed weight for age. Both weight and height vary within rather wide limits in completely healthy children.

Nursing in the Home.

The District Nursing Sisters are available for all cases of domiciliary nursing which includes Midwifery and General Nursing and in all cases where there is illness in the home where a request is made personally or at the request of the Doctor in attendance.

Home Help Service.

This service is administered by the Hertfordshire County Council and provides domestic help for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over school age, within the meaning of the Education Act, 1944.

The Organiser, who is a member of the Divisional Health Department Staff, receives requests from doctors, health visitors, midwives, and hospital almoners. No one is denied help on financial grounds and every case can be assessed according to the family income.

The service is proving extremely popular, so much so, in fact, that we are unable to provide all the help that is needed because we cannot get sufficient numbers of Home Helps. This is particularly difficult in the period Christmas to Easter when of

course, illness is at its height and one must remember that illness affects Home Helps as well as other members of the community.

Health Visiting.

There are two Health Visitors in the area. They are employed for the visiting of persons in their homes for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, old persons suffering from illness, and expectant or nursing mothers, and as to the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

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SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water:

The Public Water Supply is provided by the Harpenden Water Company from boreholes at Shakespeare Road and East Hyde, both fairly near the River Lee which is well known to be highly polluted with sewage. The water is, therefore, chlorinated, a very necessary precaution. I am glad to say that we have received considerably fewer complaints in regard to taste than in previous years.

Sewage Disposal:

I am indebted to Mr. H. Pettingale, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor for the following details:

The total quantity of sewage treated at the Sewage Works was 245,825,800 gallons compared with 241,102,100 gallons in 1958.

The rainfall was 26.36 inches compared with 32.18 inches in 1958.

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SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Re-housing:

This problem has eased considerably but it must be borne in mind that houses will always deteriorate and therefore there will always be slums to be dealt with. Also the standard of fitness for human habitation will gradually rise. The points scheme is in use and in addition all certificates from medical practitioners requesting priority for any of their patients are submitted to me as Medical Officer of Health. I have the power to recommend additional points on medical grounds without disclosing my reasons for doing so. In extreme cases I also have the power of recommending absolute priority but this power I am very unwilling to use as, of course, if this power were abused it would ruin the whole points scheme with which I am completely in favour.

The duty thus imposed on me is a very difficult one and I have no doubt that on occasions I shall make mistakes but I can assure the Council that I shall do my utmost to make their housing scheme work as fairly as humanly possible, bearing in mind the very large and urgent demand for houses.

Points are allotted independently of me for such conditions as overcrowding. I therefore never give points for conditions which already attract points under the Housing Points Scheme.

Number of new houses and flats erected during
the year:

(a) By the Local Authority	..	24
(b) By private enterprise	..	89
		113

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1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:

(i)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	..	..	..	94
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	..	..	165
(ii)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations 1925	..	..	..	-
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	..	..	-
(iii)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation			..	-
(iv)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	..	..	..	-

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notice:

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	..	..	55
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during this year:

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957:

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	..	..	-
(ii) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:	..	..	-
(a) By Owners	..	..	-
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	..	..	-

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	..	..	54
(ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:			
(a) By Owners	..	..	-
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	..	..	-

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SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks - Nil.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1959.

<u>Disease</u>		<u>Total Cases.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	..	15	-
Whooping Cough	..	18	-
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)		2	-
Measles	..	395	-
Diphtheria	..	-	-
Pneumonia	..	13	-
Dysentery	..	2	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	..	-	-
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	..	-	-
Erysipelas	..	1	-
Meningococcal Infection	..	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	-	-
Malaria	..	-	-
Undulant Fever	..	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	..	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	..	1	-
Food Poisoning	..	-	-
Gastro Enteritis	..	-	-
Pneumococcal Meningitis	..	-	-

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Smallpox:

There were no cases during 1959.

Vaccination:

Number of Persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during 1959.

<u>Age at 31st December:</u>	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2-4</u>	<u>5-15</u>	<u>15 or over</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number vaccinated	290	12	10	6	-	318
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	1	7	15	23

Number of cases specially reported during period (age groups as above)

- Nil -

Number of births registered for Harpenden	..	338
---	----	-----

Primary vaccination rate per 100 births	..	94.1
---	----	------

Of the total number of vaccinations (341), 38 were carried out at County Council clinics.

A primary vaccination rate of 94.1 per 100 births is very satisfactory indeed, being considerably higher than my past experience when vaccination was compulsory.

I would emphasise that the ideal age for primary vaccination is under one year of age, when the risk of complications is practically nil. Complications do occur when the primary vaccination is done later in life, but not when re-vaccination takes place at an older age. Vaccination is compulsory for many people who wish to travel abroad or take up certain employment, and it is well worth while having all babies vaccinated so that no risk may be run if they have to be vaccinated in adult life.

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Diphtheria Immunisation:

Number of children who completed a Full Course for Primary Immunisation in the Authority's Area (including temporary residents) in 1959:

Age at date of Final Injection.

Under 5. 5 - 15.

348 11

Total - 359

Number of children who were given a secondary or reinforcing injection (i.e. subsequent to complete Full Course):

Total - 143

Births for the same area 338

Primary Immunisation Rate per 100 births .. 106.2

The numbers shown above include 311 children who received combined Whooping Cough/Diphtheria immunisation injections.

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Whooping Cough:

On the 16th March 1953, the County Council scheme under Section 26 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, was extended to cover protection against Whooping Cough.

It is obviously wise to immunise children as soon as possible, because by far the greatest danger occurs in the first year.

Number of children who completed a Full Course for Primary Immunisation in the Authority's Area (including temporary residents) in 1959:

Age at date of Final Injection.

<u>Under 5.</u>	<u>5 - 15.</u>
341	8
<u>Total</u>	- 349
	<u>---</u>

Number of children who were given a secondary or reinforcing injection:

<u>Total</u>	- 68
	<u>--</u>

Primary Immunisation Rate per 100 births: .. 103.2

These figures include 311 children who received a primary immunisation with a combined Whooping Cough/Diphtheria vaccine.

It will be noted that once again we have an immunisation rate both for Diphtheria and Whooping Cough of above 100%. It is emphasised that it is difficult to check that all the children who are immunised against Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, and Smallpox actually reside in Harpenden. You will appreciate that a Harpenden postal address by no means implies that the child actually resides within the Urban District boundary but I am sure the number of children in Harpenden who escape immunisation is very, very few.

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Programme of Protective Inoculations.

The following should be the routine procedure for young children:

Month of Age:

Before 3rd month (or at 4½ months)	-	Smallpox	Vaccine	
3rd month	-	Pertussis	Vaccine	1 c.c.
4th month	-	Pertussis	Vaccine	1 c.c.
4½ months	-	Smallpox	Vaccine	
6th month	-	Poliomyelitis	Vaccine	1 c.c.
7th month	-	Poliomyelitis	Vaccine	1 c.c.
8th month	-	Diphtheria Formol Toxoid		1 c.c.
9th month	-	Diphtheria Formol Toxoid		1 c.c.
12th month	-	Pertussis	Vaccine	1 c.c.

Booster:

Diphtheria 1 c.c. Formol Toxoid or T.A.F. immediately before or after the child starts school.

Poliomyelitis Vaccine:

The only contra-indications considered to be valid at present are the same as those applying to the other types of immunising procedure, viz: acute or intercurrent illness, poor or indifferent general health, acute constitutional disturbances, etc. If a child is to have tonsils or adenoids removed and is also due for the vaccine, it should be given at least two weeks before the operation if possible in the hope that the child may develop some immunity.

B.C.G. Vaccine:

If this vaccine is to be, or has been, given to a young child contact, there should be no immunising injections of any kind for two weeks before or for six weeks afterwards.

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Poliomyelitis:

As I have stated in my opening remarks, there were two cases of poliomyelitis during 1959 - a man of 28 and a boy of 10, both paralytic. The adult was a very severe case and although he is still alive he is very helpless. The main interest, in the boy's case, is that he had had his poliomyelitis inoculation, the paralysis was minimal and only lasted a day or two.

It has been said that the actual inoculations can produce paralysis at the site of the inoculation but in this case paralysis was on the opposite side and so could not possibly have had anything to do with the actual inoculation. In any case the paralysis was so mild and so transient that I think it is fair to claim that but for his inoculations he would probably have had a much more severe attack.

The connection between poliomyelitis and the multiple (diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus) vaccine has never, to my mind, been very well proved and I am very pleased to be able to say that we are now reverting to the multiple vaccine, which will save quite a lot of injections. We have found that children given repeated injections are beginning to show, in many cases, a marked distaste for this procedure, and I don't wonder at it!

In the future, it might be possible that we will be able to add poliomyelitis vaccine to the combined diphtheria and whooping cough but equally so there are signs that we may be able to immunise people against poliomyelitis by tablets which they swallow; obviously a very much easier procedure. At present this method of immunisation can definitely give immunity to the patient but there is a tendency for the virus, which is a living, attenuated one, to recover its virility on passage through the human body with, of course, the danger of infecting others with true poliomyelitis. However, experiments on a large scale in Russia, where the checks seem to be a little bit vague, and in the United States and Northern Ireland, seem to suggest that we are very near to being able to produce a vaccine to be taken by mouth which is effective and safe.

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Tuberculosis:

Cases on Register as at 31st December, 1959.

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary</u>		<u>Totals</u>
<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
52 (53)	34 (37)	5 (5)	14 (14)	105 (109)

Figures as at 31st December 1958, are in brackets.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my seventh report on the work of the Public Health and Housing Department.

Undoubtedly the outstanding event of the year was the completion of the old people's dwellings at Breadcroft Lane. Having realised the pressing need for accommodation for old people who might otherwise be forced into residential homes or institutions, the Council embarked upon this scheme which provides completely independent and self-contained accommodation, yet the Warden is always there on hand should his help be needed in an emergency. Security of tenure, compact easily-run dwellings with even heat throughout, and the fact that they are never neglected or alone, have done much to give the old people peace of mind and contentment.

In the field of public health, the day to day work has continued in an atmosphere of co-operation rather than compulsion. The general position has remained highly satisfactory, although the Council did institute legal proceedings where it was felt such action was justified.

I should like to express my appreciation to the Chairman and members of the Public Health and Housing Committees for the keen interest taken in the work of the Department and for their friendly and close support at all times.

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SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

General Sanitation:

Public Health Acts	-	primary inspections	..	254
		re-inspections	..	275
Drainage		..	..	131
Infectious Diseases		..	..	6
Water Pollution		..	..	1
Movable Dwellings		..	..	54
Refuse Collection and Disposal		..	..	7
Disinfestations		..	..	11
Public Conveniences		..	..	2
Smell Nuisances		..	..	36
Keeping of Animals		..	..	28
Rodent Control		..	..	1,846 *
Housing Acts		..	..	153
Rent Acts		..	..	76
Factories Acts		..	..	186
Smoke Nuisances		..	..	42
Petroleum Regulations		..	..	85
Pet Animals Act		..	..	1
Miscellaneous Visits		..	..	194
				3,388

* Includes 1,514 visits made by the Council's Rodent Operative.

Food Hygiene:

General Stores and Grocers	..	..	46
Cafes and Canteen	..	..	39
Licensed Premises	..	..	5
Bakers and Confectioners	..	..	19
Greengrocers	..	..	12
Butchers	..	..	45
Fish Shops	..	..	4
Dairies	..	..	14
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	22
Visits re sampling:			
Milk Distributors	..	..	40
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	12
			258

GENERAL SANITATION.

Complaints:

During the year, 374 complaints were received and dealt with;
110 of these were regarding infestations by rats and mice;
207 were regarding one or more wasps' nests.

Drainage:

A considerable amount of work was again carried out during the year in connection with the testing, alteration and repair of existing drainage systems and 131 visits were made for the purpose. Following complaints of rat infestation, thorough checking of the drainage systems of all infested premises and those in the immediate vicinity was carried out.

The drainage systems of 113 new houses and flats constructed during the year were connected to the sewer.

Cesspools:

There were at the end of the year 58 cesspools in use and in most cases the houses concerned are in scattered small groups where connection to main drainage is not practicable at the present time. Although it may be possible in due course to connect some of the properties with cesspools to main drainage, the majority will remain out of reach of public sewers for some time.

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Cesspool Emptying Service:

The Council bear the cost of one emptying of a cesspool each year for premises that are not within reasonable distance of the Council's sewers. This work was undertaken by the St. Albans Rural District Council and I must record my thanks to Mr. D.J. Graham, Chief Public Health Inspector, for his co-operation and help at all times with this very essential service. During the year 56 emptyings were carried out.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948:

The following tables show the prescribed particulars on the Administration of the Factories Acts:

Part I of the Act:

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health:

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number of:</u>		
	<u>on</u> <u>Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written</u> <u>Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers</u> <u>prosecuted.</u>
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority:	4	18	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority:	55	114	8	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises):	38	54	Nil	Nil
<u>Totals:</u>	97	186	8	Nil
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2. Cases in which defects were found:

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found.</u>		<u>Referred</u>		<u>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.</u>
	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>To H.M. Inspector.</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspector.</u>	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	7	Nil	5	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Totals:</u>	8	7	Nil	5	Nil
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Part VIII of the Act:

Outwork - Section 110.

<u>Nature of Work.</u>	<u>No. of Outworkers in August list required by S.110 (1) (c) (2).</u>	<u>No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.</u>	<u>No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists.</u>
Wearing apparel. Making etc. Cleaning and Washing	16 +	Nil	Nil
All other types of outwork	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Totals:</u>	16 ---	Nil ---	Nil ---

* Nine of these are employed by firms outside
the district.

Outwork - Section 111.

<u>Nature of work.</u>	<u>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.</u>	<u>Notices served.</u>	<u>Prosecutions.</u>
Wearing apparel. Making etc. Cleaning and Washing	Nil	Nil	Nil
All other types of outwork	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Totals:</u>	Nil ---	Nil ---	Nil ---

Means of Escape in Case of Fire Certificates - Section 34:

These Certificates have been issued in respect of all factories where applicable and in some cases the advice of the County Fire Service has been sought. Certificates are now in force in respect of all factories to which this section applies except where structural alterations are in progress.

Movable Dwellings:

The use of caravans as a means of human habitation did not decline and 37 caravans were licensed under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936; in addition 4 caravans continued to be stationed on the Council's temporary site at Milford Estate.

34 of the licensed caravans are stationed on three sites where proper provision has been made for the disposal of elsan contents, refuse collection, mains water supply, and sanitary accommodation for both males and females. The remaining 3 caravans are on individual sites and adequate facilities are available. 54 visits were made during the year in connection with caravans and as temporary accommodation on properly regulated sites they assist considerably in alleviating the housing shortage which still causes some concern.

Notices:

The following notices were served during the year. Compliance was effected without the need for instituting legal proceedings.

Informal Notices.

Notices served during year	..	54
Complied with by owners		
during year	..	55

Formal Notices.

Notices served during year	..	2
Complied with by owners		
during year	..	-

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Rodent Control:

The extermination of rats and mice is carried out as a free service to the occupiers of private premises. A charge is made in respect of business premises at an hourly rate to cover the cost of labour, materials and administration.

110 complaints concerning infestations by rats and mice were received and dealt with, resulting in the treatment of 261 properties. For this purpose 1,846 visits were made and 226 dead rats were found.

The Council employ one Rodent Operative (Mr. E.A.C. Faram) for this work.

Sewers:

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, a ten per cent test of sewer manholes was carried out during the year. 93 manholes were test baited and it is pleasing to report for the first time that no infestation was found. Infestations in sewers have regularly declined over the past few years and the value of systematic treatments has been clearly indicated.

Council Properties:

Careful supervision of the Council's Depots and Stores was maintained during the year and any infestation at the Sewage Works or Refuse Tip was dealt with by the Manager and Rodent Operative. Improvements in the method of operating the refuse tip have assisted considerably in checking rodent infestations.

Wasps' Nests:

207 complaints were received of wasps' nests and 223 nests were treated by the Rodent Operative.

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CONTROL OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

Meat Supply and Slaughtering facilities:

No slaughterhouses have been used in the district since the war but adequate slaughtering facilities have been available in surrounding districts. The demand from local butchers for such facilities is however very limited indeed and most retailers seem now to rely on supplies of carcass meat from wholesale meat markets. A careful check has been kept on the vehicles used for transporting meat together with the protective clothing worn by the meat handlers.

Arrangements are still in force whereby assistance in meat inspection duties would be given to the St. Albans Rural District Council should the necessity arise at any time.

The following meat and meat products were condemned as being unfit for human consumption at premises in Harpenden during the year:

Beef	..	..	58 lbs
Pork	..	..	13 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs
Tinned Meat and Meat Products	..	..	61 lbs

Other Food Inspection:

The following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption, and disposal by incineration or burying on the refuse tip was arranged in every case:

Poultry	..	..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs
Tinned Fruit	..	..	28 lbs
Tinned Vegetables)	..	..	22 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs
Soups and Fish)	..	..	
Tinned Milk and Cream	..	..	1 tin

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The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955:

During the year 255 visits were made to food premises in the area and inspections were carried out under the above Regulations. No certificates of exemption were issued and all improvements were secured without the need for formal action by the Council. The Regulations appear to have been accepted by food traders as being reasonable in their requirements and at the same time essential in any food business.

Food Premises:

There are 140 food premises in the area which are made up as follows:

General Stores and Grocers	..	37
Cafes and Canteens	..	25
Confectioners and Bakers	..	25
Greengrocers	..	8
Butchers	..	11
Licensed Premises	..	25
Chemists	..	6
Fish Shops	..	3

13 premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of sausages etc. and 25 visits were made to these premises. Conditions were generally found to be satisfactory.

Legal Proceedings:

In two instances legal proceedings were instituted under Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, where articles of food were sold to the prejudice of the purchaser not of the substance demanded. The first case concerned a loaf of bread containing a match-stick; the second, cake containing a piece of cardboard. Both defendants pleaded guilty and fines of £2 plus £5:5s:0d costs were imposed in each case.

Ice-cream:

There are in the district 48 premises registered for the sale and storage of ice-cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and in each case the ice-cream is obtained from one of the well known large manufacturers. Practically all the ice-cream sold from these premises is pre-packed. No premises are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream.

A number of vehicles from which ice-cream is sold move into the district from neighbouring towns and the effective control of the sale of ice-cream from such vehicles is exceedingly difficult since they invariably operate at week-ends and holidays.

22 visits were made to premises registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream and 10 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Luton for examination, the results being set out below:

<u>Type of Sample.</u>		<u>Grade.</u>				<u>Total.</u>
		<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>	
Pre-packed	..	4	-	1	-	5
Loose	..	2	2	-	1	5
						10
						--

N.B. Samples in Grades 1 and 2 are considered satisfactory.

In the case of the two unsatisfactory samples, a thorough investigation was made in co-operation with the local authority where the ice-cream was manufactured. Subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

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Milk and Dairies Acts, Orders and Regulations:

There are in the district 14 registered distributors of milk and three registered dairies, although no milk is actually processed or bottled in Harpenden. Milk is supplied from three large plants in adjoining areas and with one exception milk samples from three sources submitted for testing proved satisfactory. However, in the case of T.T. (Farm Bottled) milk, nine samples failed the prescribed tests and during the year the retailers discontinued handling such milk because of these failures and complaints from customers regarding keeping quality. This means that only heat treated milk is now sold within the district.

The following licences were issued during the year:

Dealers' licences authorising the use of the special designation.

Pasteurised		6
Sterilised		6
Tuberculin Tested	..	4

Supplementary licences authorising the use of the special designation.

Pasteurised		3
Sterilised		2
Tuberculin Tested	..	2

Details of the milk samples are given below:

<u>Type of Milk</u>	<u>Number examined</u>	<u>Satis- factory</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory</u>
Sterilised	1	1	-
Pasteurised	41	40	1
T.T.(Farm Bottled)	21	12	9
T.T.(Pasteurised)	27	27	-
	—	—	—
	90	80	10
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Housing Act, 1957:

The Council's programme for dealing with unfit houses in the district was continued during the year. Two houses were demolished and five other properties were closed when the tenants were re-housed, to await demolition. The Council's policy of buying certain poor-type cottages in Heath Road and Cross Street was continued and at the end of the year negotiations were in hand to acquire 21 houses in this area.

When the Council's programme for dealing with unfit houses in the district was prepared in 1955, it was envisaged that 35 houses out of a total of 70 properties would be dealt with within the first five years' period. By the end of 1959, action had been completed in respect of 30 properties and a further four had been purchased for early demolition.

Rent Act, 1957:

A summary of the applications received for Certificates of Disrepair during 1959 is as follows:

<u>Applications</u> <u>received.</u>	<u>Notices</u> <u>by</u> <u>Local Authority</u> <u>to Landlords.</u>	<u>Applications</u> <u>refused.</u>	<u>Under-</u> <u>takings</u> <u>received.</u>	<u>Certificates</u> <u>of Disrepair</u> <u>issued.</u>
<u>Form</u> <u>I.</u>	<u>Form</u> <u>J.</u>		<u>Form</u> <u>K.</u>	<u>Form</u> <u>L.</u>
6	6	-	5	1

Since the Act came into force, only 24 tenants of rent-controlled property have applied for certificates of disrepair and it would appear that landlords with the benefit of increased rents have been able to carry out essential repairs with the results that tenants generally have not needed to seek the assistance of the local authority.

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HOUSING MANAGEMENT.

The Council now owns 657 houses, 204 flats, and 25 prefabricated bungalows, making a total of 886 housing units.

During 1959, a further 10 houses were completed, together with a group of 13 old people's dwellings at Breadcroft. This latter scheme was the result of very detailed and careful planning and has attracted the interest of many other local authorities in the vicinity. The essential features of the scheme, which comprises 10 flats in a two-storey block and three bungalows in a terrace, are:

- (a) each flat is completely self-contained with living-room, bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen.
- (b) central heating is provided to each flat from an oil-fired boiler.
- (c) a link is formed between the flats and bungalows by a community room and a laundry with a warden's flat over and the boiler-house beneath.

The Council receive a grant of £30 per annum per flat from the welfare authority (the County Council) in respect of the welfare facilities provided and the scheme has proved so successful that a further six flats are contemplated as an extension to the project and a further similar group of 23 dwellings on another site should be completed during 1961.

The following visits and inspections were made in the performance of duties connected with housing management:

To applicants ..	132
Maintenance ..	1,738
Administration ..	137
Tenancies ..	149

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Summary of Housing Applicants.

<u>Applicants.</u>	<u>Active List.</u>	<u>Deferred List.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Married couples with children	62	38	100
Married couples and Engaged couples	67	36	103
Single persons	9	3	12
Old persons	74	-	74
	212	77	289
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The total number of applicants for housing accommodation at the end of the year - 289, compares with 323 at the 31st of December 1958; 319 at the end of 1957; and 303 at the end of 1956.

Although the number of housing applicants has varied very little during the past few years, the number of urgent cases is very small indeed. However, the claims of people living in small insanitary cottages lacking in modern amenities should not be overlooked despite their not infrequent initial reluctance to move to more modern surroundings.

The demand for the opportunity to purchase Council houses still continues and during 1959 a further six houses were sold, leaving at least another 50 applicants waiting for vacancies to occur. The policy of allowing exchanges between tenants was continued during the year when 37 transfers were agreed, two of these being to houses of other local authorities.

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PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

The provisions of the Petroleum Acts and Regulations are administered by the Department. 28 occupiers of filling stations, repair garages and other premises are licensed to store petroleum spirit and 85 visits were made to such premises during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. SNOWDON,

Senior Public Health
Inspector.
